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MAJOR CHANGES IN GWF

GWF side notes: Sam Houston won a 15-man battle royal to capture the Global Television Title, and Danny Davis took the lightweight championship away from Barry Horowitz.



STING'S OUT!

Weber also mentioned that despite rumors, no contract has yet been reached between Jake Roberts and WCW. In addition a new site might be needed for the Great American Bash due to the fact that the workers at the Philadelphia Civic Center might be on strike.

CHEWING THE TURNBUCKLE

Some match-ups at recent WWF television tapings saw **The Ultimate Warrior** pitted against **Papa Shango**, **Sid Justice** vs **The Undertaker**, and **Davey Boy Smith** against **The Repo Man...Koko B. Ware** and **Owen Hart** have formed a new tag team...**Kerry Von Erich** is back in the ring...**Ric Flair** and **Mr. Perfect** were involved in a shoving match following a recent match -- look for a feud between the two to emerge in the near future... **The Nasty Boys** and **The Mountie** were no shows at the television tapings...**Jake "The Snake" Roberts** is said to have "gone home." Look for Jake to soon appear in WCW, where his father **Grizzly Smith** has a position in the office. Great move for WWF, terrible move for WCW...**Hulk Hogan** is said to be looking for some \$70,000 per match on the independent scene. This writer won't be surprised if the Hulkster is back along side Vince come Summer Slam... **Paul E. Dangerously** will soon be purchasing the contract of **Big Van Vader** ...**Dustin Rhodes** has been sidelined with a disc injury... **Brett Hart's** cuts suffered at the hands of **"Rowdy" Roddy Piper** at **Wrestlemania VIII** were indeed not in the script. An "upset" Hitman went back to the dressing room bleeding from the head and the nose... Happy to see **The Undertaker** leave his bodybag home and not bring it to **Wrestlemania VIII**...**Tatanka** seems to be getting a big push...What happened to the centerfold of **Liz** we were supposed to see at **Wrestlemania VIII**? Can we purchase this on the black market?...Word has it that **Barry Windham** will be turning heel at the **Great American Bash**...Sources say that **Jake the Snake Roberts** will be a babyface if and when he signs his contract with the WCW...Wedding bells for **Cactus Jack** on April 25th.

THINGS THAT KEEP ME AWAKE AT NIGHT

A few months ago I attended a WWF card at the Nassau Coliseum with my four-year-old son Will. Like any normal kid my son wanted something from the souvenir stand. After spending what seemed like hours deciding what to buy, young Will finally picked out Legion of Doom shoulder pads. When we got back to our seats I assembled the rubber armor and strapped it to my son. That look in his eyes when I put them on him I will never forget. He was now Hawk. He stood up on his seat for everyone to see. He was a warrior, he was now a member of Legion of Doom. I got goosebumps just seeing how excited he was. Still standing high on his chair-young Will looked at me with his big brown eyes and said, "Daddy...what a rush."

I have read various newsletters this week. Newsletters which I am not afraid to say were pathetic. Nobody can understand why the Hoosier Dome had 60,000+ for **Wrestlemania VIII**. How is this possible with all the negative press that the WWF has received over the past few months. Doesn't anybody care? Why are people condoning what the WWF has done? The fact of the matter is that it doesn't take a genius to answer those questions. The "so-called" wrestling media doesn't want to answer those questions because they are afraid of

what the answers might be. However, if you do want answers here they are.

1) Child sex abuse - The three names mentioned - Patterson, Garvin and Phillips are no longer employees of the WWF. PERIOD. CASE CLOSED.

2) Steroids - Should we no longer watch or attend NFL games? If you don't think that EVERY lineman in the NFL isn't on steroids you had better go see a doctor. Should I not let my children play football now? Are you going to tell me that certain Olympic athletes haven't experimented with steroids? Are you kidding me? Maybe they shouldn't televise the Olympic games anymore. The fact is that steroids unfortunately are a part of every sport.

3) A former female referee saying Vince McMahon "Equated sex with him with job for her" - Six years after the fact? I guess we're not allowed to watch Met games either. Did you hear what that poor women said that Daryl Boston, Vince Coleman and Dwight Gooden did to her? I'm not even going to let my kids play baseball again.

So there you have it -- the Hoosier Dome was filled with 60,000 people because since parents, a) won't let their children toss a football, b) won't let their children watch the Olympics, and c) won't let their children play baseball -- There was nothing else left to do but go and watch wrestling.

Readers, this is surely not enough for me to make young Will turn off his television set. There is nothing here! The 60,000+ at the Hoosier Dome felt that there is nothing here. Don't you get it? You think you're so wrapped up in something and the fact is you have NOTHING. Issue, after issue, after issue. You go on, and on, and on. I'm sick of it. What the hell is the point?

This is where the shoulder pads come in. PARENTHOOD. No parent in the world is going to take something away from their children that they love because of ALLEGATIONS. How should I put it? "Young Will, you can no longer watch Macho Man because some referee lady said that Vince McMahon is a bad man." Sounds ridiculous doesn't it? THAT'S BECAUSE IT IS.

Now the shoulder pad story. I mentioned to a certain member of the wrestling media that I had bought my son L.O.D. shoulder pads. That certain someone turned around and called me "a mark." Let me tell you something friend, if being a mark means putting a smile on your child's face, then I'm damn proud to be one. "Marks" like me have made the WWF and professional wrestling what it is today. "Marks" like me will continue to support professional wrestling. And it is going to take a lot more than unprofessional journalists who thrive on sensationalism to make us "marks" go away. NOW DO YOU GET IT?

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW with NICK BOCKWINKLE

PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT WEEKLY: How did you get into the sport of professional wrestling?

NICK BOCKWINKLE: My father preceded me so I was second generation.

PWSW: Where did your career begin?

NB: Los Angeles.

PWSW: Did you have a formal training period?

NB: I had wrestled amateur and then in college at the University of Oklahoma. I'd always..so to speak..get slapped by the big boys who I was always around.

PWSW: In what federation did you begin your career?

NB: I'm not quite sure it was any federation. At the time it was predominately the NWA. I then traveled around the country, I did the west coast, Hawaii, and then in the last 60's I came back to Atlanta, Georgia. In early 1971 I came to the AWA where I spent the next 18 years. I then retired in that area.

PWSW: How long were you the AWA champion?

NB: I was champion for about 13 out of 17 years.

PWSW: Throughout those years, what is the one story that stands out in your mind?

NB: The first time they ever had wrestling on a Sunday in Houston, Texas was in 1985 and it was an afternoon card. In order to make the card special they had the NWA, WWF and AWA champions all on the card. Bruno was there, Harley Race and myself. Needless to say the main event was Harley defending the NWA title. This was the first time people were going to be able to compare these three pieces of talent in one afternoon. Egos and pride were all running very high, we all wanted to show our very best. I wound up wrestling Jose Lintheris in a 20-minute match that ended in a draw. As I came out of the ring the promoter said to me, "We promised these people a championship match, and Harley has not been heard from." They made a few calls to Stanley Blackburn who was the president, to see if they would validate a championship match. It all happened very quickly. I went back in the ring and I wrestled Terry Funk for one hour.

I remember when I got back to the hotel and I sat down I was too tired to get up and go eat. I think I was sore for a week. Only because of the effort that was made, I don't think I was every more proud of myself that at that time.

PWSW: How would you compare wrestling today to when you were in your prime?

NB: I think what has happened is there is a sense of urgency when you watch a commercial on TV, or you watch a football game or a basketball game. Cameras are switching all over the place constantly. They want the action to be happening every hesitating second. They don't want anybody to be seen just casually walking along because they are fearful that people will change the channel. That sense of urgency has come down to professional wrestling and affected the talent. Promotion is worried about it and talent is worried about it. So what you have is a far more high paced style match, but I don't think you get as great a quality today as you did then. You get a greater display of talents and attributes and how much of a pounding you take, but a lot of the science of the match is lost.

PWSW: How do you feel about the use of steroids in the wrestling business today?

NB: In all honesty I find Bruno to be very hypocritical. In the sense that Bruno's son was definitely known to have used them. Bruno makes a big to do about it day, but Bruno never complained to promotion back in the early 70's when he was wrestling Superstar Billy Graham and collecting all those main event pay-offs. I respect the man tremendously because he was a great champion and he carried the WWF title with great distinction and class. He was one of the greats and shall always be admired, but his present stand on the steroid issue -- what the hell -- people are taking vitamins, people are drinking too much beer, people are smoking cigarettes. If they're doing it to excess, it's not good for them. If a guy is all steroided up I don't give him credit for everything that he's showing because I realize that he's chemically induced. I feel bad that these guys feel that they have to use them.

PWSW: Did you think that wrestlers can go back and be successful without being on the juice?

NB: Yes, I definitely do. I think what is starting to take place right now is that you have so many people so aware -- steroids are like male make-up, women can put make-up on their face and make an ugly girl beautiful if they do a good enough paint job. Men can put themselves on steroids -- they still have to work out, but they can give themselves a tremendously gorgeous body. People are going to come to a realization that if they see a great body, is it yours, or is it the scientists'? As soon as enough of that takes place, people are going to start laughing at all the steroid babies. Guys will be embarrassed to have muscles, so they'll figure it's not getting them anywhere, and they'll get off it.

PWSW: Where do you see professional wrestling headed say five years down the road?

NB: It's hard to predict, it really is. It's such a costly thing to create the animal and make it move the way you want it to. Vince already has so much in motion, so that his system will dominate. It possibly may stay somewhat on the same vein it's going now. I know that the UWF, out of Japan, came over and held some matches in Florida, you don't know that could just really grab on. If it did, God love it.

PWSW: Looking back on your career, would you have done anything differently?

NB: I would press the button, play the same game, and change nothing. I had a great career, I enjoyed myself tremendously, I met some fabulous people. I traveled throughout the world, I fortunately accomplished a lot towards the latter part of my career. Sure, we all want to take what we did and improve upon it, but that's usually not the option that we get. Needless to say becoming the AWA champion and hanging onto that, and holding that high level of accomplishment for the number of years that I did, speaks of my consistency. A lot of people can be champions for a day, a month, or even a year, but when you start doing it like Bruno did it, and like I did it, and like Dory Funk did it, and even the way Hogan has done it for the last eight or nine years, that says something.

PWSW: What are you currently doing?

NB: I'm in the financial services business. That would probably be the only thing that I would want to change. I wish I would have learned what I knew now back then. I would have been able to do a lot more smarter things with my money than I did. I didn't do poorly, but I didn't do as wisely as I would have liked to.

PWSW: Unfortunately there are a lot of wrestlers who do handle money poorly.

NB: They all do. It's an unfortunate scenario. It's a strange world, and most people get caught up in the glory and the limelight and all of the surrounding things that take place. The adulation and everything else can really bend a guy's mind out of shape.

MAT MEMORIES

by JOHNNY RODZ

Many, Many things happened to us on the road, the funniest thing that I can remember is when Gorilla Monsoon was feuding with Bruno Sammartino. They wrestled at Madison Square Garden, the Philadelphia Garden and so on. They were planning a big match at the Boston Garden and were doing the interviews for Hamburg, Pennsylvania television. I was sitting there all day long listening to the interviews. It got to the point where Bruno couldn't take it anymore, and he said he was going to pick up 400 pound Gorilla Monsoon and slam him right through the mat. He said it a couple of times and each time it got stronger. We were sitting there thinking about it and saying he must be really angry with Gorilla.

Time passed and soon we were at the Boston Garden. The place was jam-packed with people. Bruno and Gorilla got into the ring and everyone was watching the match. Bruno made a big comeback, he was really after the Gorilla. He picked him up and body slammed him. He then picked him up again and body slammed him a second time. The second time, however, the ring collapsed and they both went through the mat. They just disappeared. We were all standing at the entrance, trying to see what happened to them. We all thought that someone must have done something to the ring to make Bruno's words come true, but it was for real.

This was so powerful, and the people were in such disbelief that when Bruno and Gorilla came back for a rematch people couldn't buy enough tickets.

TOP TEN MONEY GROSSING FEDERATIONS

1. World Wrestling Federation
2. World Championship Wrestling
3. Global Wrestling Association
4. Ladies Professional Wrestling Association
5. United State Wrestling Federation
6. Portland National Wrestling
7. International World Class Championship Wrestling
8. Continental Wrestling Federation
9. Virginia Wrestling Association
10. Smokey Mountain Wrestling

DREAM MATCH CACTUS JACK VS. THE UNDERTAKER

BY JOHN EARL



BOOB TUBE BASHINGS & BRAVOS

WWF

Not much to report on, basically a Wrestlemania recap. It seems that Wrestlemania highlights were shown much sooner on national television than in previous years. Why? I feel that Vince needs to capitalize immediately on the success of the event, there is no time for lulls, he must go forward -- full speed ahead.

Nassau Coliseum May 1st card will offer, **Justice/Warrior**, **Repo Man/Davey Boy**, and **Michaels/Hart**.

I question why the Michaels/Hart feud is beginning so soon. It seems like this would be the ideal match-up for Summer Slam.

WCW

Sting/Vader and **Rude/Steamboat** recaps are getting ridiculous.

With all the Rude/Steamboat hashing and re-hashing, I feel that it is about time for Steamboat to capture the U.S. Heavyweight Title.

I have mentioned in the past that **K. Allen Frey** is a sharp man. He added to that by video-distorting the blood spilled by Ricky Steamboat in his bout with Rick Rude. Was this done due to the crimson displayed at Wrestlemania VIII, which may have offended some people? I think so. However, Mr. Frey may have made a mistake by trying to make himself a television star. There is no room for Frey to become **Jim Ross's** co-host even if it was only for a "guest" appearance. His presence was "too" staged and unnatural. I don't know about you, but I was pulling for "The Dragon" to pop Frey when Kip mentioned that Steamboat was bringing his problems from home into the ring. I hope in the future that Mr. Frey stays in his office, where he is indeed doing a great job.

Greg Valentine/Terry Taylor defeated the **Fabulous Freebirds** in an entertaining two out of three falls match to successfully defend the U.S. Tag Team Titles.

ASSOCIATED PRESS TOP TEN

WRESTLERS

1. Randy Savage
2. Brett Hart
3. Ric Flair
4. Rick Rude
5. Jushin "Thunder" Liger
6. Brian Pillman
7. Hulk Hogan
8. Sid Justice
9. Steve Austin
10. Sting

MANAGERS

1. Paul E. Dangerously
2. Jim Cornette
3. Paul Bearer
4. Jimmy Hart
5. Teddy Long
6. Curt Henning
7. Harvey Wippleman
8. Bobby Heenan
9. Diamond Dallas Page
10. Paul Ellering

TAG TEAMS

1. Arn Anderson/Bobby Eaton
2. Steiner Brothers
3. L.O.D.
4. Money Inc.
5. Terry Gordy/Steve Williams
6. Haussu/Chono
7. Barry Windham/Dustin Rhodes
8. Sgt. Slaughter/Jim Duggan
9. Greg Valentine/Taylor Made Man
10. Fabulous Freebirds

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COLISEUM VIDEO

This 1985 videotape was far and away the best effort ever offered by Coliseum Video. Captain Lou Albano, Classy Freddie Blassie, The Grand Wizard of Wrestling, they're all here.

The cassette opens up with **Luscious Johnny Valiant** introducing a very young **Brutus Beefcake**. Over the past few months I have learned first hand what a gentleman Johnny Valiant is. To be able to look back and experience what he contributed to professional wrestling was indeed a treat for me.

Valiant is also seen wrestling a young rookie by the name of **Steve Lombardi (Brooklyn Brawler)**.

The next segment -- what can you say, maybe the greatest manager of all-time. **The Grand Wizard of Wrestling**. As a child I will never forget the words **WELLLLLL McMAHON**. The Wizard was a true credit to this game, and he has been missed by all of us. Here he can be seen introducing a surfer turned wrestler, **Don Moraco**.

Freddie Blassie is featured next as we are shown highlights from the **Rotunda/Windham vs. Iron Shiek/Nikoli Volkoff** tag team championship bout from **Wrestlemania I**. My memory has never erased the Iron Shiek cracking Blassie's infamous cane over Windham's back enabling Volkoff to pin him.

After the devious duo walked away with the championship straps **Mean Gen. Okerlund** asked Blassie about the illegal use of his cane. Blassie innocently commented, "Cane? I didn't have a cane." That should be bottled and vintaged.

Next up, Blassie's man Big Nikoli takes on the one...the only...**George "The Animal" Steele**. You tell me what other professional wrestler has eaten a turnbuckle with such grace? As a matter of fact, what other professional wrestler has eaten a turnbuckle? I don't know about you, but as a kid I dyed my tongue green.

Featured next, the **Moolah-Kei-Richter-Lauper** wars. **Love Ya Liz**, but Moolah was and still is the first lady of wrestling. What's interesting here is Lauper's influence actually brought music into wrestling. If it weren't for this angle, we may not have wrestlers with so-called theme songs.

The **Bobby Heenan/Big John Studd** team was then featured in a \$15,000 slam match at **Wrestlemania vs. Andre the Giant**. Remember when things didn't particularly go Studd's way causing Heenan to introduce us to **King Kong Bundy**. It's all here.

The most enjoyable moment came when Bobby Heenan was featured on TNT answering questions from the lovelorn. As host, **Vince McMahon** loses it listening to the Brain's remarks. However, through it all, Heenan answers all the questions without missing a beat.

The **Randy Savage** Sweepstakes was next. Blassie, Hart and Heenan all bidding for the services of the "**Macho Man**."

The best moment came when Blassie made a Chinese fan with a wad of one hundred dollar bills and claimed it

was "walking around" money for him. He then assured Savage that with his guidance he would be the World "**CHAMPEEN**." As the story goes, the announcing team of Bruno and Vince call the action as Savage introduces **Elizabeth** as his manager.

I don't know how, but Liz looks even better now than she did then.

Who can forget the 1985 Manager of the Year Contest. When Heenan's allies gave him their votes almost assuring him the honors. However, much to his chagrin, **Hillbilly Jim** gave **Captain Lou Albano** his votes making the Captain the victor. I was hysterical watching Heenan break the trophy in a million pieces as Stud and Bundy splashed the big Hillbilly.

There wasn't a more fitting way to end this tape other than with Lou Albano. To **Lord Alfred Hayes**, Albano says "Stop laughing Count, Duke, whatever they call you."

After telling us of his 157 point I.Q., Albano states, "In the medusa of my brain lies the brain of a genius."

Yes, Captain, a genius you were.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am only 16 so I don't remember the real wrestling greats like Bruno Sammartino, Antonio Rocca, and Buddy Rogers. However, I have seen them all on tape and they were superb. I remember the greats of the early-mid 80's. There was Paul Orndorff, Don Muraco, Bob Backlund, Jesse Ventura, Ricky Steamboat, Mike Rotondo (before he became the idiot I.R.S.), the British Bulldogs (before Davey Boy became the muscular moron) and many others.

Today you don't see these grapplers. Instead we see guys with no talent like the Big Boss Man, Natural Disasters, Jim Duggan, Skinner, and Berzerker. Yes, there are a few very talented wrestlers left like Ric Flair, Curt Hennig, Brett Hart, and Scott Steiner, but I still miss the guys from the early 80's.

If Vince McMahon is smart he will bring Don Muraco, Mr. Wonderful, Bob Backlund, and all of the other greats back to the WWF. We don't want to see Repo Man, Papa Shango, Tatanka, and the Berzerker! Look at who Kip Frey brought into the WCW -- Ricky Steamboat, Rick Rude, and the best commentator, Jesse Ventura. They are all former employees of the WWF. Come on, Vince! If you wait much longer, there won't be any wrestlers left out there worth signing.

Joseph Puccio

Richmond Hill, NY

FAN'S MAT MEMORIES

K. JABAR ANDREWS

Brooklyn, NY

My name is K. Jabar Andrews and I'm a 13-year-old wrestling fan who will always remember the first time I saw pro wrestling.

It was a Sunday morning, I was six-years-old and I came down the stairs and turned on the television. I started flipping through the channels to see what was on. I stopped at a channel astounded at what I saw -- two guys going at it!!! I woke my brother who said he

had seen this before. I started to imitate the maneuvers, and kept track of when my favorites were on. Hulk Hogan was one of my favorites and I used to jump up and down on our sofa and cry when he was in trouble. I also enjoyed the cute little animals.

Then in 1989 when my family got cable I saw my first (WCW) NWA match. I saw Sting get beat up by the Horsemen and it hit me dead in my heart. I started paying more attention to the NWA and watched the WWF on pay per view. Hulk Hogan dropped to number two position as Sting grabbed my heart. I was waiting for the NWA to come to the Garden but they never did. Maybe now with Mr. Frey in the office they just might make it. But until that magic day when I see the WCW in person I will support wrestling any way I can. This is my memory of wrestling.

FAN'S MAT MEMORIES

STEVE TOBKES

West Hempstead, NY

The Island Gardens in West Hempstead, New York was where I had my first view of professional wrestling. I remember it was a Friday night and I went with my older brother to see the WWWF.

We got there about 2 hours before the start and I will never forget Dr. Jerry Graham arriving in a black limo. The people were crowding around Graham and he walked in puffing on a cigar and completely ignored the fans. I was amazed by how big Graham was, but my biggest thrill was next when Bruno Sammartino arrived. He walked up to the front of Island Gardens and was surrounded by the fans. Bruno signed as many autographs as he could and reached out to shake as many hands as possible. What really left an indelible impression in my mind was the cauliflowered ears of Bruno Sammartino. This was at a very early stage of his career.

The matches that night are kind of a blur but I do recall the big feud at the time was the Graham Brothers vs. Mark Lewin and Don Curtis. The Graham Brothers left the ring bloodied to a pulp. The crowd was in a frenzy as security tried to calm things down.

I remember leaving Island Gardens all excited and counting the days to the next show. I was quite young and had to ask my parent for permission to go to any future shows. That's my Mat Memory.

FAN'S MAT MEMORIES

ROBERT COSTOLO

Rockville, MD

I woke up one Saturday morning, went upstairs for breakfast and my Dad had on wrestling. Blackjack Mulligan was on with his manager, the Grand Wizard of Wrestling. This was a Saturday morning squash match. Mulligan destroyed this ham &egger then put on the dreaded iron claw! The ham &egger was pinned and the Grand Wizard was commanding Mulligan for more punishment. He did and all of a sudden the ham &egger's head started to bleed. I couldn't believe it. Blood

started running down the side of his head and then thirty seconds later the big red censored X came on the screen. You could see a little going on through the red X, but the good part was cut off. Then all the wrestlers tried to pull the maniacal Mulligan off this pure jobber. This was around 1979-80 and at the tender age of seven this was very traumatic to me, but also intriguing. After talking to my Dad about it, he said that these guys are professionals and that the wrestler got a cut on the head from the dreaded claw. I accepted that explanation but didn't leave it to the pro's, I practiced the dreaded Blackjack Mulligan iron claw on my little brother. Not once could I get his head to bleed.

FAN'S MAT MEMORIES

by MARTIN A. EDELSTEIN

Brooklyn, NY

One of my favorite wrestling shows was the one which originated from the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles. The show aired on Channel 41 in New York and was hosted by Miguel Alonzo and Luis Magagna.

Among the wrestlers who regularly appeared on the show were Freddie Blassie (El Rubio de Oro), John Tolos, Chavo Guerrero, Black Gordman, Goliath, Mr. Saito, and Kenji Shibuya.

These shows often aired main event matches including a Battle Royale (which I believe Bruno won), a cage match, Gordman against Goliath and a host of Freddie Blassie matches where Blassie appeared as a babyface.

I think the funniest moment I ever saw on the show was when they brought out a huge cake (about wedding cake size) in honor of Louis Magagna's birthday. Black Gordman then came out and smashed the cake over Mr. Magagna's head.

It's really a shame that the show went off the air because at the time it was a breath of fresh air in comparison to the WWWF which was inserting giant "Xs" on the screen to block out matches deemed to be too gruesome.

PROFILE: LEX LUGER

- Played football at Penn State
 - Youngest player to have ever played in the Canadian Football League at 19-years-old.
 - 21" biceps -- 265 pounds
 - Began his career wrestling in Florida before moving to the NWA
 - Kevin Sullivan guided Lex in his early years
 - Held all singles belts in the NWA
 - Was wrestling's Rookie of the Year in 1986
-
-

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